IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims in the present application with the following listing of claims, as amended:

1. (currently amended)   A method for routing information in a communication system that includes a platform and a path selection/activation apparatus configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions, the method comprising:

receiving the information from the platform and receiving at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters, the path selection parameters including parameters for providing selective traffic splitting between a plurality of paths to a second platform that is configured to provide the performance enhancing functions including one or more of protocol spoofing, local data acknowledgement, data compression and encryption, and the path activation parameters including parameters for mapping the paths to physical ports of the platform, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus maintains a profile that contains the at least one of the path selection and path activation parameters; and

routing the information in accordance with the profile.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended)   The method of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, further comprising: determining the path by applying path selection rules.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the path selection rules permit failure to N alternate paths, where N is an integer greater than one.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path and

determining which portions of the information should be dropped when one or more paths fail.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters as a data structure from the platform.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated path selection or path activation parameters.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

applying rules to ensure all packets of information related to the common traffic flow take a common path.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

applying rules which allow packets of information from the same traffic flow to travel via different paths.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

applying multiple path selection or path activation rules using boolean operators.

11. (currently amended)   A communication system comprising:

a platform configured to provide performance enhancing functions <u>including one</u> <u>or more of protocol spoofing, local data acknowledgement, data compression and</u> <u>encryption</u>, the platform supplying information and at least one of path selection and path activation parameters;

a path selection/activation apparatus communicating with the platform, the path selection/activation apparatus being configured to receive the information and the at least one of path selection and path activation parameters from the platform, <u>the path</u> <u>selection parameters including parameters for providing selective traffic splitting</u> <u>between a plurality of paths to a second platform that is configured to provide the</u> <u>performance enhancing functions, and the path activation parameters including</u> <u>parameters for mapping the paths to physical ports of the platform,</u> wherein the path selection/activation apparatus has a profile that specifies at least one of path selection and path activation parameters, wherein the communication system is configured to rout the information in accordance with the profile.

12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended)   The communication system of ~~claim 12~~ <u>claim 11,</u> wherein the path selection/activation apparatus determines the path by applying path selection rules.

14. (original) The communication system of claim 13, wherein the path selection rules permit failure to N alternate paths, where N is an integer greater than one.

15. (original) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus determines whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path and which portions of the information should be dropped when one or more paths fail.

16. (original) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus receives the at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters as a data structure from the platform.

17. (original) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus receives at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated path selection or path activation parameters.

18. (original) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus implements rules to ensure all packets of information related to the common traffic flow take a common path.

19. (original) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus applies rules which allow packets of information from the same traffic flow to travel via different paths.

20. (original) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus can apply multiple path selection or path activation rules, combined using boolean operators.

21. (currently amended)   A path selection/activation apparatus for routing information in a communication system that includes a platform configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions, the apparatus comprising:
        means for receiving the information and at least one of path selection and path activation parameters, the path selection parameters including parameters for providing selective traffic splitting between a plurality of paths to a second platform that is configured to provide the performance enhancing functions including one or more of protocol spoofing, local data acknowledgement, data compression and encryption, and

the path activation parameters including parameters for mapping the paths to physical ports of the platform;

means for maintaining a profile containing the at least one of path selection and path activation parameters; and

means for routing the information in accordance with the profile.

22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended)   The path selection/activation apparatus of ~~claim 22~~ claim 21, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus determines the path by applying path selection rules.

24. (original) The path selection/activation apparatus of claim 23, wherein the path selection rules permit failure to N alternate paths, wherein N is an integer greater than one.

25. (original) The path selection/activation apparatus of claim 21, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus determines whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path and which portions of the information should be dropped when one or more paths fail.

26. (original) The path selection/activation apparatus of claim 21, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus receives the at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters as a data structure from the platform.

27. (original) The path selection/activation apparatus of claim 21, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus receives at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated path selection or path activation parameters.

28. (original) The path selection/activation apparatus of claim 21, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus implements rules to ensure all packets of information related to the common traffic flow take a common path.

29. (original) The path selection/activation apparatus of claim 21, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus applies rules which allow packets of information from the same traffic flow to travel via different paths.

30. (original) The path selection/activation apparatus of claim 21, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus can apply multiple path selection or path activation rules, combined using boolean operators.

31. (currently amended)   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for routing information in a communication system that includes a platform and a path selection/activation apparatus configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving the information from the platform and receiving at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters, the path selection parameters including parameters for providing selective traffic splitting between a plurality of paths to a second platform that is configured to provide the performance enhancing functions including one or more of protocol spoofing, local data acknowledgement, data compression and encryption, and the path activation parameters including parameters for mapping the paths to physical ports of the platform, wherein the path selection/activation apparatus maintains a profile that contains the at least one of the path selection and path activation parameters; and

routing the information in accordance with the profile.

32. (canceled).

33. (currently amended)   The computer-readable medium of ~~claim 32~~ claim 31, further comprising:

determining the path by applying path selection rules.

34. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the path selection rules permit failure to N alternate paths, where N is an integer greater than one.

35. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:

determining whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path and

determining which portions of the information should be dropped when one or more paths fail.

36. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:

receiving the at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters as a data structure from the platform.

37. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:

receiving at least one of path selection parameters and path activation parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated path selection or path activation parameters.

38. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:

applying rules to ensure all packets of information related to the common traffic flow take a common path.

39. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:

applying rules which allow packets of information from the same traffic flow to travel via different paths.

40. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:

applying multiple path selection or path activation rules using boolean operators.